

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03
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FM AMEMBASSY DACCA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5164

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 3437

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EFIN, EINV, BG
SUBJECT: TALK WITH PRESIDENT ZIA ON NATIONALIZATION CLAIMS AND
 GM INVESTMENT

1. DURING MEETING WITH PRESIDENT ZIA ON JUNE 23,
WE DISCUSSED TWO ECONOMIC MATTERS: OUR NATIONALIZATION
CLAIMS AND THE POSSIBILITY OF AN INVESTMENT BY
GENERAL MOTORS.

2. ON THE LONGSTANDING CLAIMS, I TOLD ZIA THAT THIS
ISSUE WOULD BE RAISED DURING MY JULY CONSULTATIONS
IN WASHINGTON AND IT WAS INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TO
EXPLAIN WHY, WHEN THE BDG HAD ACCEPTED THE OBLIGATION
TO PAY THESE CLAIMS, NOT A SINGLE ONE HAS YET BEEN
SETTLED. I WENT BRIEFLY OVER THE MAJOR CLAIMS
AND NOTED THAT WE HAD TO DEAL WITH FOUR OR FIVE
DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE BDG, DEPENDING ON WHO HAD
JURISDICTION OVER A PARTICULAR SECTOR, BUT WERE MAKING
LITTLE PROGRESS. ZIA SAID WITH SOME VEHEMENCE THAT HE HAD
GIVEN ORDERS THAT THESE CLAIMS SHOULD BE SETTLED. HE
MADE SEVERAL PHONE CALLS IN MY PRESENCE AND SAID HE WOULD
APPOINT ONE PERSON TO DEAL WITH US ON ALL OF THEM WITH A
VIEW TO RESOLVING THE PROBLEM QUICKLY. I EXPRESSED AP-
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PRECIPATION AND SAID WE WERE READY TO MEET AT ANY TIME.

3. AT THE REQUEST OF THE LOCAL GENERAL MOTORS REPRESENTATIVE, I ALSO MENTIONED TO PRESIDENT ZIA OUR HOPE THAT THE BDG WOULD RESPOND FAVORABLY TO GM'S PROPOSED INVESTMENT (DACCA 2539), NOTING THE ADVANTAGES TO BANGLADESH OF A COMMITMENT FROM A MAJOR CORPORATION SUCH AS GM.

ZIA SAID HE WAS AWARE OF THE PROPOSAL. HE MADE NO
COMMITMENTS BUT SAID HE WOULD LOOK INTO IT AND SEEMED
FAVORABLY DISPOSED.
MASTERS

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Message Attributes

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